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WHAT I CLAIM IS:

1. An adapter for use in an upper end of a supporting pipe means
embedded within the ground and supporting a standard of an outdoor light fixture
5 above ground surface, the pipe means having a central longitudinal axis and an
open upper end defined by an inner surface of a mildly compressible circular wall,
said adapter comprising;
 an integral body having an upper portion and a lower portion both
disposed about a vertical central axis,
10 said lower portion providing an outer surface defined at least in
part by a section of a profile of a sphere having its center on the central axis of
said body and a radius substantially equal to a radius of said inner surface of the
open upper end of the pipe means,
 said upper portion providing a mounting surface accessibly from
15 above said ground surface for cooperative engagement with said standard of a
light fixture for attachment of said standard to said adapter,
 whereby on applying a clamping force about the upper end of the
pipe means subsequent to inserting of said lower portion of said adapter into
upper end of said pipe means and adjusting said central axis of said body of said
20 adapter relative to said central longitudinal axis of the pipe means, said central
axis of said adapter is held in a fixed position relative to the vertical.
2. An adapter as defined in claim 1, wherein;
 said adapter has a central opening extending therethrough for the passage
of electrical wires from the interior of the pipe means and into the standard of said
25 light fixture.

3. An adapter as defined in claim 2, wherein;

said upper portion of said adapter includes a flange means with at least portions thereof extending radially outward from the central axis of the body an extent greater than said outer surface defined by said section of a profile of a sphere of the said lower portion.

4. An adapter as defined in claim 3, wherein;

said central opening within said upper portion is circular in cross-section and includes internal threads for mating with a threaded lower portion of a standard of said light fixture.

5. An adapter as defined in claim 3, wherein said flange has wrench engaging flat sides about its periphery.

6. An outdoor lighting support system for a light unit including a standard supporting an illuminating fixture, the standard having connecting means at a lower end thereof,

said support system comprising an elongated foundation member for lengthwise insertion into the ground and providing an open upper end defined by an inner surface of a mildly compressible circular wall,

an adapter including an integral body having an upper portion and a lower portion both disposed about a central axis,

said lower portion providing an outermost outer surface defined at least in part by a section of a profile of a sphere having its center on said central axis of said integral body and of a radius substantially equal to a radius of said circular wall of said foundation member for close reception in said open upper end thereof

to thereby permit a ball and socket action between said lower portion of said adapter and said circular wall of said foundation member,

said upper portion defining a flange projecting radially outwardly from said central axis of said integral body a distance greater than said radius of said section of a sphere;

said upper portion further providing connecting means for rigid attachment to the connector means at the standard of the light unit, and

clamp means for constricting engagement about said circular wall of said foundation member for selectively inhibiting said ball and socket action.

7. A mounting system for an outdoor light standard of the type including a post affixed to and extending upwardly from a bottom horizontal base portion, said system comprising:

an elongated pipe member for installing below ground surface in a position having a longitudinal axis disposed in an approximate vertical orientation;

said pipe member having at least one subsurface opening for receiving electrical wires and an open upper end being defined by an inner surface of a mildly compressible, circumferential wall of said pipe member;

a box unit for electrical connection having a lower portion for reception in said open upper end of said pipe member and an upper portion disposed above the upper end of said pipe member,

said lower portion of said box unit having an exterior circumferential surface for close engagement within said inner surface of said wall of said pipe member,

said upper portion of said box unit having an exposed upper surface providing a horizontal face for supporting said base portion of said light standard, and, universal connection means providing for adjustment of a vertical axis of said

upper portion of said box unit relative to said longitudinal axis of said pipe member; and

locking means for holding said upper portion of said box unit relative to an
5 adjusted position relative to said longitudinal axis of said pipe member,

whereby said vertical axis of said upper portion of said box unit is locked after adjustment in a fixed position relative to said longitudinal axis of said pipe member for holding said upper surface of said upper portion of said box unit in a horizontal plane regardless of said pipe member having been installed with the
10 longitudinal axis thereof with a deviation from the vertical.

8. An electrical connection box for use in a mounting system for an outdoor light standard of the type including a post secured to and extending upwardly from a bottom flange, said mounting system including a rigid pipe member for installation within the ground, the pipe member having a longitudinal
15 central axis and an open upper end defined by an inner surface of a mildly compressible circular wall of the pipe member, and clamp means for encircling and compressing the circular wall,

said connection box comprising;

an integral unit formed of a lower hollow portion and an upper portion
20 terminating in an upper flange defining a flat surface in a plane normal to a central longitudinal vertical axis of said connection box for supporting and attachment to said bottom flange of said light standard,

said lower portion of said connection box including an outer wall providing an outer surface profile defined at least in part by a section of a sphere having a
25 center on said vertical axis of said connection box and a radius substantially equal to that of the inner surface of the circular wall of the pipe member,

whereby upon reception of said lower portion of said connection box in the

open end of the pipe member, said lower portion can be oriented to a set position with said longitudinal axis of said box at an angle relative to the longitudinal axis of the pipe member resulting in said flat surface of said upper flange being horizontally disposed prior to tightening said clamp means so as to compress said wall of said upper end of said pipe member about said outer surface of said lower portion of said box thereby resisting movement of said connection box from said set position.

9. In a method of preparing a mounting system for supporting an outdoor light standard of the type having a base defining a horizontal bottom face, the steps of:

affixing at least a lower end of an elongated pipe member within the ground base with a axis of said pipe member in a generally vertical orientation, said pipe member having at least one opening in a lower part thereof for receiving electrical wiring;

15 inserting a lower portion of an electrical connection box into an open upper end of said pipe member in a close fitting arrangement, said box having an upper portion defining a flat surface normal to a central axis of said upper portion for supporting said bottom face of said light standard,

adjusting the upper portion of said box relative to said pipe member to vertically position said central axis of said upper portion,

locking said upper portion of said box relative to said pipe member with said central axis of said upper portion vertically positioned,

feeding electrical wires through said lower opening in said pipe member and through a sealable opening in a bottom of said connection box in preparation for mounting said light standard on said flat surface of said upper portion of said connection box.

10. The method defined in claim 9, wherein;

said pipe member is initially installed approximately in a vertical position in said ground base prior to completing final landscaping of an area to be provided with said outdoor lighting, and

5 further comprising the step of:

trimming said upper end of said pipe member at a level of final grade of landscaping prior to inserting said connection box into said open upper end of said pipe member.